

Antelope Guzzler Report
Cisco Guzzlers Maintenance Report 2012

The 2011/2012 winter was fairly mild but offered no precipitation or snow. Fawning and adult survival appeared initially good. Lack rainfall through the summer has severely reduced forage availability, and has possibly diminished survival of the fawns produced this spring.

All systems but two systems in the Cisco area were full this spring and required no additional waters. The two systems that were low were filled by recreation staff. During the past several years all pending catchment and plumbing repairs were completed and all older systems have been upgraded, ensuring adequate water during this year severe drought conditions.

All sediment boxes were pumped out, cleaned and inspected for leaks.

Due to the severe drought conditions, forage availability near many of the permanent guzzler was severely reduced, resulting in interesting movement of antelope into area not typically utilized by antelope. The ten-mile area offers more broken country that would be more typically used by bighorn, but due to the more sandy soils and reduced grazing the vegetative community offer suitable forage, though water resources were lacking. In June, Kevin set up four temporary water tanks to facilitate the increased antelope use.

One new guzzler sites has been identified for the Cisco Herd Unit and will be located approximate 10 miles north of the airport. Installation is planned for the fall of 2012 and will be on-line for the spring of 2013. Other improvements to antelope habitats include the drop down fences that were installed on the Bitter Creek Project, ranges fences conversions to antelope friendly fencing in areas where antelope were being restricted from water and several ponds that antelope use in the summer were cleaned out.

2012 Summary of Future Repair & Maintenance Needs

West Harley- All good-no repairs needed-2012 re-furbishment completed

East Harley- All good-no repairs needed

Stateline- All good-no repairs needed-2012 re-furbishment completed

Top of Sage- All good-no repairs needed-re-furbished 2009

Sheep Camp South- All good-no repairs needed-re-furbished 2009

Elk Pasture- All good-no repairs needed-now lockable

Bird Finger- All good-no repairs needed-2012 re-furbishment completed

Dozer Blade- All good-no repairs needed-2012 re-furbishment completed

Cottonwood -2X6 ground base replaced, gutter screened, valve box lock

East Cisco South- All good-no repairs needed-re-furbished 2007

West Cisco South- All good-no repairs needed-re-furbished 2007

UDOT Circle- All good-no repairs needed-now lockable

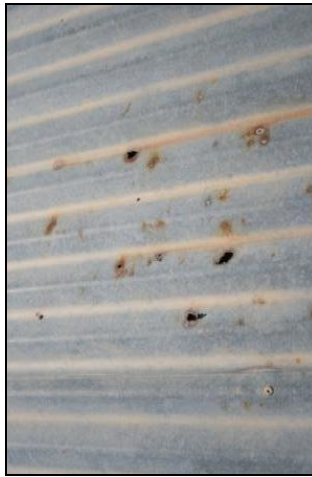
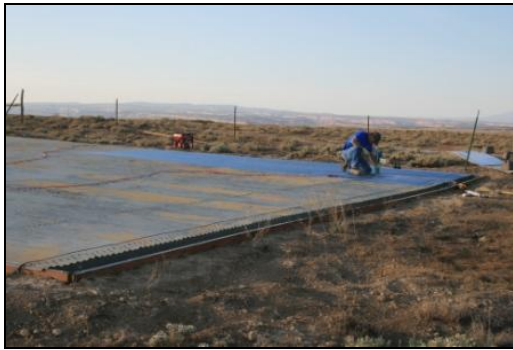
DOE Guzzler- Locks cut, replace- new in 2006

Antone -All good-new in 2009

Airport Antelope Guzzler- All good

#1 West Harley

2012 – The 2' X 6' ground base was replaced and a new corrugated surface installed on ground catchment with the help of dedicated hunters. Gutter had large hole in it that resulted in no water being collected. Gutter was repaired. Recreation & their water tender filled the water storage tank. System was turned on in the spring and turned back off in the fall when the cows returned to the range. Sediment box was pumped out, cleaned and inspected. Storage tank is totally full of water and system is in good shape.



Repairing pitted catchment surface



Replacing 2' X 6' Base

2011 - System full of water and in working order

2010- Storage tank full. Sediment tank, cleaned, hunting blind was removed. A new gutter system, drip edge & fill spout was installed.

2009- Storage tank has water. Sediment tank cleaned, locking valve box installed, brush cleared, upright catchment re-enforced, hunting blind needs be removed.

2008-Tank has water, drinker is not locked, needs new drip edge & metal trash hauled of, brush cleared.

2008 –Refurbishment finished

2007- Refurbishment started



#2 East Harley

2012 - System was turned on in the spring and turned back off in the fall when the cows returned to the range. Sediment box was pumped out, cleaned and inspected. Storage tank has water and system is in good shape.



2011 - System full of water and in good shape.

2010- Storage tank full. New gutter, drip edge and fill spout installed. Re-furbished plumbing from gutter to sediment tank. New drinker, plumbing installed & locks. Hunting blind removed.

2009- Brush cleared out around catchment. Deck/catchment stabilized.

2008- Deck refurbished & painted, fence fixed, blew out line, fixed broken 2x12

2007 AJ hauled 1 load of water

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#3 Stateline

2012 - The 2' X '6' ground base was replaced, catchment deck repaired and gutter screen with the help of dedicated hunters. System was turned on in the spring and turned back off in the fall. Storage tank is totally full of water and system is in good shape. Sediment box was pumped out, cleaned and inspected. Storage tank has water and system is in good shape.



2011 - System full and in working order

2010- System full and in working order. New fill spout installed, brush cleared out. Lots of pronghorn use.

2009- Storage tank has water. New drinker installed and re-plumbed, holes back-filled around base of catchment, sediment tank. Brush cleared up.

2008-Tank has water. No lock on drinker or locking grate. Edge of catchment exposed and is at risk of being blown away!



#4 Top of Sage (Bitter Creek)

2012 - System was turned on in the spring and turned back off in the fall when the cows returned to the range. Sediment box was pumped out, cleaned and inspected. Storage tank has water and system is in good shape.



2010, 2011- Storage tank full of water and system is in good shape.

2009-Major overhaul completed: New water storage tank, sediment box, drinker, valves and valve box, fill spout, over flow & plumbing installed, catchment base refurbished and a new fence was built. Extensive use by pronghorn was noted once system went back on-line in late July.

2008 – Water off and disconnected, no water reaching drinker. Needs storage tank replaced. No locks on anything. New screen system on gutter, gutter cleaned

#5 Sheep Camp South

2012 - System was turned on in the spring and turned back off in the fall when the cows returned to the range. Sediment box was pumped out, cleaned and inspected. Storage tank has water and system is in good shape.



2011- Storage tank full of water and system is in good shape.

2010- Storage tank full. New drinker has been installed and a new fill spout added to the system. The valve remains locked and BLM rangers periodically patrol area. Lots of pronghorn use and several burrowing owls pairs in area.

2009-In 2007 this system was functioning, but the catchment was in need of repair and the corrugated metal needed to be refurbished. Due to limited funding in 2007 these repairs were scheduled in 2008, but, unfortunately we did not get the repairs done in time. High wind in the spring of 2008 destroyed the rain catchment. The water storage tank and drinker is still working and we delivered water to the system, but this is costly. Where the catchment once was is a very flat, packed surface. The following spring (2009), upon inspection and system turn-on Kevin found the remainder of the system had been vandalized. The T-bar that locked the shut-off valve had been cut and the water had been turned on. With water in the drinker all winter, large numbers of cattle had used the water drinker. This resulted in the drinker being twisted and bent and all the water drained from the previously full tank. Most of the vegetation was tramped in the area. Fortunately there was no damage to the under-ground plumbing and the fence was still intact so the flat surface was the catchment had been was still ready for a new catchment. Kevin blocked the pipes leading to the tank so excess sediment did not enter the tank.

During the summer of 2009 the catchment base & surface was re-constructed and locks were installed on the drinker & shutoff valve and the sediment box was thoroughly cleaned. Recreation's water tender then filled the tank and the system was operational thru the summer. The system was inspected; its condition documented and shut down for the winter.



2008-catchment after it blew away

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#6 Elk Pasture

2012 - System was turned on in the spring and turned back off in the fall when the cows returned to the range. System was made lockable. Sediment box was pumped out, cleaned and inspected. Storage tank has water and system is in good shape.



2008

2010, 2011- Storage tank full and system working well.

2009- Sediment tank cleaned, brush cleared, rodent holes filled around catchment, upright catchment re-enforced, System is working well.

2008 - In 2004 the water storage tank became filled with sediment and the system no longer functioned. In 2005 the BLM purchased a new storage tank and in 2006 the DWR installed this 1000 gallon tank and filled it. By 2006 the tank was dry and never seemed to hold water and there was a presumed leak.

Many other problems existed with this system so it was over hauled & refurbished, including the installation of a new sediment tank, fill valve, overflow valve, drinker, gutter &, drip edge. The new storage tank dug up & a leak in the bulkhead was found and repaired. The upper catchment had additional support structures installed to the base and the lower catchment base re-furbished and repaired. The fence was also repaired and all wood was painted.

2007- Storage tank empty – Non-functional
2006 – New storage installed & filled but later was empty
2005 - Storage tank empty – Non-functional



2007

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#7 Bird Finger (Bryson)

2012 - The 2' X '6' ground base was replaced, catchment deck repaired and gutter screen with the help of dedicated hunters. System was turned on in the spring and turned back off in the fall. Sediment box was pumped out, cleaned and inspected. Storage tank has water and system is in good shape. Storage tank is totally full of water and system is in good shape.



2011- Storage tank full of water and system is in good shape.
2010- New drinker and fill spout installed and drinker in now locked. Heavy pronghorn use.
2009- Sediment tank cleaned, catchment base backfilled and rocks placed around base to prevent sheet metal from blowing away. Drinker needs replaced.

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#8 Dozer Blade

2012 - The 2' X '6' ground base was replaced, catchment deck repaired and gutter screen with the help of dedicated hunters. Tank was very low on water, discovered a water line from the storage tank had pulled apart, allowing all the water to drain out. The line was dug up and replaced. Recreation then came out and filled the storage tank. Sediment box was pumped out, cleaned and inspected. Sediment box was

pumped out, cleaned and inspected. System was turned on in the spring and turned back off in the fall. Storage has water and system is in good shape.



2011 – Damage from a badger den - deck was jacked up; the hole filled, re-blocked and braced.

2010- Heavy winter snows damaged upper catchment. Catchment was jacked up and addition support was installed. New drinker and fill spout installed and drinker is now locked. Good pronghorn use.

2009- Storage tank has water. Sediment tank and drinker cleaned, brush cleared.

2008-Tank full.. Repaired upright catchment with deck blocks and a new center support, filled holes around settling tank & catchment and fixed tank lid.

2007- AJ hauled 1 load of water.

2006 - Water was low, repaired a broken drain spout





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#9 Cottonwood/Long Canyon (Blaze)

2012 - Storage tank is fairly full of water. System was turned on in the spring and turned back off in the fall when the cows returned to the range. Sediment box was pumped out, cleaned and inspected.



2009, 2010, 2011- Storage tank full, drinker was cleaned out.

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#10 East Cisco South

2012 - System was turned on in the spring and turned back off in the fall when the cows returned to the range. Sediment box was pumped out, cleaned and inspected. Storage tank has water and system is in good shape.



2008, 2009, 2010, 2011- Storage tank is full. New sediment tank installed, drinker cleaned. System working well.

2007 System refurbishment – Catchment surface patched and repaired added additional support to apron & leveled, new gutter, flashing & drip edge installed, new drinker & plumbing installed, new valve box & shut off valve installed, fence repaired and painted.

#11 West Cisco South

2012 - System was turned on in the spring and turned back off in the fall when the cows returned to the range. Sediment box was pumped out, cleaned and inspected. Storage tank has water and system is in good shape.



2009, 2010, 2011- Storage tank is full. . System working well.

2008- System Refurbishment - Catchment jacked up and leveled with deck blocks and re-painted, Apron patched, new gutter system installed, shut-off valve leak re-paired, repaired valve to valve box drain, replaced turn off valve, installed new drinker and re-stretched

2007- Installed over flow on storage tank, new lid, sand tee. 3" bulk head & fill pipe.

#12 UDOT

2012 - System was turned on in the spring and turned back off in the fall when the cows returned to the range. A new power coated/ rhino lined drinker was installed on a cement base. Locks were placed on the system. Sediment box was pumped out, cleaned and inspected. Storage tank has water and system is in good shape.



2010, 2011- Storage tank is full. Sediment tank and drinker thoroughly cleaned. System working well.

2009- Storage tank has water. Sediment tank installed & plumbed, new gutter & drip edge installed, new plumbing. Catchment re-enforced and refurbished & drinker cleaned out

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#13 DOE Guzzler (funded by DOE & Stoller installed 2006)

2012 - System was turned on in the spring and turned back off in the fall when the cows returned to the range. Sediment box was pumped out, cleaned and inspected. Storage tank has water and system is in good shape.



2011 - Storage tank is full of water and system is in good shape

2010- Storage tank is full. Drinker hinges were failing, new drinker and cement pad was installed.

2009- Storage tank has water. Backfilled holes around sediment tank and drinker

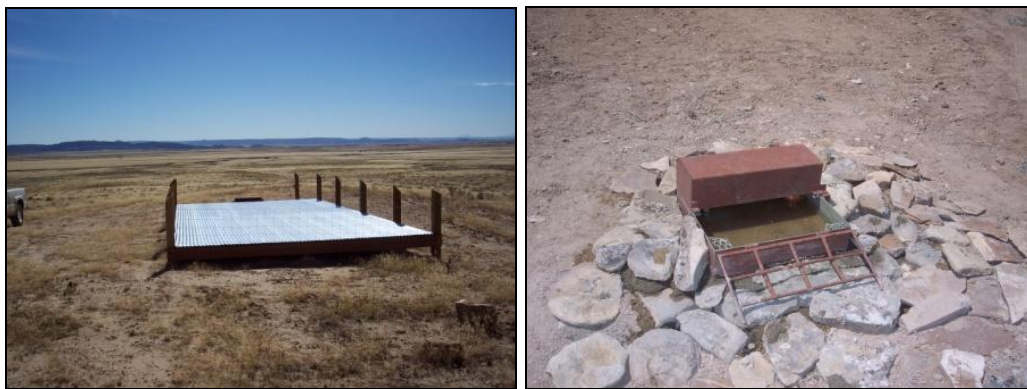
2008 Both locks have been cut? Lock on settling tank ok. Fence loose.

New System-Online September 2006 – Offsite mitigation for the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMPTRA) Grand Junction DOE and Stoller funded and installed this system with the help and expertise of retired Moab BLM Wildlife Biologist, Joe Cresto.

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#14 Antone Guzzler (funded by DOE & Stoller – installed 2007)

2012 - System was turned on in the spring and turned back off in the fall when the cows returned to the range. Sediment box was pumped out, cleaned and inspected. Storage tank has water and system is in good shape.



2011- Storage tank is totally full of water and system is in good shape.

2010- Storage tank very full. Drinker hinges were, new drinker and cement pad was installed to this drinker system. Fence was loose, tightened and repaired. Good pronghorn use.

2009- Backfilled holes around sediment, drinker and storage tank, settling had occurred, reinforced corner posts.

2008-All looks good.

Online June 2007 - Offsite mitigation for the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMPTRA) Grand Junction DOE and Stoller funded and installed this system with the help and expertise of retired Moab BLM Wildlife Biologist, Joe Cresto and our current DWR technician Kevin Denny.

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#15 Airport Antelope Guzzler (Funded by Delta Petroleum installed 2008)

2012 - System was turned on in the spring and turned back off in the fall when the cows returned to the range. Sediment box was pumped out, cleaned and inspected. Storage tank is totally full of water and system is in good shape.



2011 - Storage tank is totally full of water and system is in good shape.

2010-- Storage tank very full. During spring inspections a leak was found in the water line between the valve box and the drinker, so luckily no water was lost during the winter as the system was turned off. Line was dug up and repaired and a new gutter screen was installed. Little pronghorn use.

2009- Storage tank has water. Drinker was cleaned out.

***Online August 2008 -** Delta Petroleum purchased all catchment materials, water storage tank and plumbing and provided heavy equipment and an operator to bury the water tank. The BLM provided the sediment tank, drinker and water truck. All labor was furnished through the assistance agreement between for the two DWR seasonal employees including the retired Moab BLM Wildlife Biologist, Joe Cresto and our current DWR technician Kevin Denny.*

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#16 Athena Guzzler (Funded by Delta Petroleum installed 2010)

2012 - System was turned on in the spring and turned back off in the fall when the cows returned to the range. Storage tank is totally full of water and system is in good shape.

2011 - Storage tank is totally full of water and system is in good shape.

2010 - Delta Petroleum and Western Land Services installed guzzler in the late fall of 2009/10 - offsite oil/gas mitigation



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New For 2012

Proposed Crescent Bench Guzzler for 2013

A 1800 gallon Boss tank is schedule to be installed in December in 2012.

Temporary Water

Minimal precipitation during the 2011/2012 winter followed by severe drought condition in the spring/summer of 2012 lead to altered movement patterns in the Big Flat area of the Cisco Desert. This area offers matt salt desert shrub-brush flats with numerous stock ponds north and south of Interstate 70 where antelope are typically seen. Vegetation and water was nonexistent by early spring and there are no antelope water developments or guzzlers in this area. Antelope were often seen to the south in the sandy, more rolling county that borders the Potash Bighorn sheep area. In these areas the sandy soils and lack of grazing in some areas last year offer better forging opportunities but water was still lacking, as all pond were dry. In these areas four temporary guzzlers were placed to reduce the need to travel to search for non-existent water. Several other temporary water sources were place to the north of I-70 near Thompson Springs by AJ Rodgers.





Pond Improvements

Mineral exploration in the Duma Point area, south of where antelope were utilizing the Big Flat areas, a local company with a backhoe was doing some road work for a drilling operation. Working with Kevin was required due to some bighorn sheep concerns. Once this project was done, the operator of the backhoe inquired if he could help with any wildlife needs. Kevin directed him to a blown out pond that in past years provided year-long water for both cattle and antelope. He promptly repaired the pond so that when the rains comes it will hold water. Since that time the local permittee of both that allotment and an adjacent allotment has hired the operator to clean and repair all their ponds!!



Drop-down Fences

To the northeast of I-70 on the Colorado border a habitat restoration/cheatgrass reduction project was initiated in 2010 to improve antelope habitat. To protect seeding efforts and to facilitate a future rest/rotation grazing plan, UGIP funded the permittee to build four miles of new fencing. To facilitate antelope passage the fence was designed so antelope can easily pass under the fence and large drop-down fences were installed. These fences are only up from March to May if cattle are utilized that pasture.



Range Fencing Upgrades

The Moab BLM continues to identify and upgrade fencing to allow for antelope passage by replacing the lower barb wire with smooth wire, insuring the lower wire in at least 18 inches from the ground and not attaching the lower smooth wire to the fence stays. During the 2012 drought antelope were seen often attempting with much difficulty to pass through range fencing to travel to water or forage. With the help of the local Youth Corps one mile of fences was improved near the Airport Guzzler.





*Note chunks of fur and tracks when antelope pushed under the low, attached barbed fence wire.
This fence was later up-graded*